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Peck project to move forward

By Shelby Macri
smacri@gmail.com

HOLYOKE – The Massachusetts School Building Association announced on Apr. 14 that William R. Peck Middle School has been invited to their eligibility period.

The Holyoke Public Schools have worked with the MSBA on multiple projects over the years, including inviting three other Holyoke schools to their Accelerated Repair program this past February, for roof replacements. Currently the MSBA board of Directors voted to invite the Peck School to the Eligibility Period, which is the first of eight modules.

Director of External Affairs Maria Puopolo said a

See PECK page 4

Neal lauds federal aid for Holyoke

The Holyoke Public Schools are also receiving significant funds from the American Rescue Plan

By Shelby Macri
smacri@gmail.com

HOLYOKE – Congressman Richard Neal visited Holyoke last Friday to

discuss the American Rescue plan and the \$72 million it's providing to Holyoke.

The \$1.6 trillion plan outlines relief and aid for families and cities; giving economic impact payments, child tax credits, state and local fiscal recovery funds, capital project funds, homeowner assistance funds and emergency rental assistance, and business funds. Like the employee retention credit, paid leave credit, unem-

ployment compensation, and small business credit initiative.

While larger funds for these categories have been created through the American Rescue Plan Neal explained that with the money the city gets and with guidelines based on the Community Development Block Grant program; officials will be able to use this money on multiple problems and issues within the city. This gives Mayor Terence

Murphy a chance to determine what the city's priorities are, to which he says he's grateful to have the opportunity and chance to help to city spend the money they receive, and do it well.

"The package includes \$5.3 billion of direct relief to the state, couple that with an additional \$2.6 billion and, I think when you add up all the numbers it's about \$8.5 billion directly to the common wealth of Massachusetts," Neal said. "For the City of Holyoke almost \$32 million in direct and flexible aid, in addition \$42 million for Holyoke Public Schools. This is a big deal for me; I feel very strongly about this issue, Holyoke Public Schools."

Neal went to Springfield public schools and understands what it means to have upward mobility and opportunities for the students, to give them a chance to perform as well as people know they can.

Neal said helping schools, with the determination and dedication of the city officials

See AID page 8



From left; City Councilors Rebecca Lisi, Todd McGee, Richard Neal, City Clerk Brenna Murphy McGee, Acting Mayor Terence Murphy, and Councilors Peter Tallman, and Mike Sullivan join the Congressman to talk.

Photos by Shelby Macri

History in Holyoke: Kenilworth Castle

By Pat Counter
Special to The Holyoke Sun

Kenilworth. the very name breathes of knights in shining armor and damsels in distress. Kenilworth with its turrets and battlements, was the stuff of which fairy tales were made.

Until 1959, Holyoke's version of the famed English castle sat high on a hill off Northampton Street commanding a view of the Connecticut River.

Construction on the castle, as it was known locally, began early in 1894 and was completed late the following year.

It belonged to E.C. Taft who was the founder of the Albion Paper Co. and was one of the wealthiest men in Holyoke. The Tafts, at the time of the castle's construction, lived in a palatial residence on the corner of Elm and Suffolk Streets. Kenilworth was to be their summer home.

The castle site originally was a large farm that was within the Northampton City limits. Taft bought all the surrounding land, then built an artificial knoll so his castle would sit higher than surrounding land and buildings. He personally supervised construction. As work progressed in 1895, the

building appeared immense from the outside although it contained only 12 rooms.

Some say the exterior was a replica of the Gladstone residence in England, but others believe it was derived from many castles, including England's Kenilworth.

The interior resembled a German hunting lodge, which was unique for this type of structure. The first floor consisted of a dining room, living room and a kitchen in the rear. The three front rooms were elaborate paneled and the ceiling of the reception hall was not only paneled, but was also frescoed in beautiful patterns.

Furnishings came from all over the world. Taft was a world traveler and he brought back mementos to fill the castle. Among them were oil paintings and marble statues, china from Austria, furniture from England and carpets from Turkey and Persia. Over the great fireplace hung a set of ancient Russian armor and in a nearby corner stood two nine-foot jousting lances from the English feudal period. One of the most beautiful sets of china came from England and was hand painted with pictures of English castles.



KENILWORTH CASTLE, MT. TOM IN DISTANCE

Kenilworth Castle

Submitted photo

See KENILWORTH, page 5

KNIGHTS TAKE ON MUSTANGS



Arix Madera fights through the Monson defense for a shot. Holyoke defeated Monson in a matchup at home last week. More photos on page 9.

Photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

OUTDOOR SERVICES



St. Peter's Lutheran Church, located at 34 Jarvis Avenue in Holyoke, has begun having outdoor Sunday services in their parking lot. Up until Palm Sunday, the church had been exclusively holding services via Zoom. St. Peter's has added the outdoor services to offer in-person worship while still observing covid safety protocols. Visitors are welcome to come for an informal outdoor gathering at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings; if there is inclement weather the service will be canceled. The church continues to offer a zoom service on Thursday evenings that is then replayed on Sunday mornings. Please see the website at stpetersholyokey.org for more details.

Submitted photos

El Corazón mural projects on display

HOLYOKE – El Corazón / The Heart of Holyoke Cultural Place keeping project is opening the second phase of public art installations for view next week! This phase of work includes Large Scale Photo Banners on four buildings along Main Street, a Panel Mural project on the corner of Sergeant & Main Street, and two Storefront Installation Projects.

The artworks are being installed this week with three walking tours scheduled for the weekend of April 23 and 24. Covid-safe, socially distanced tours will take place on Saturday, April 24 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2 to 3 p.m. and on Sunday, April 25 from 2 to 3 p.m.

Please register online to reserve a spot on a walking tour by Friday, April 23: <http://bit.ly/corazonwalkingtour>

The Large Scale Photo Banners features work by four local artists:

- Michelle Falcón Fontánez is a multimedia Boricua artist and activist from Holyoke, MA. She creates work in photography, film, theater, and installation art.

- Emma G Mesa-Melendez is an artist who uses portraiture to depict social and historical subject matter and celebrates national heroes that inspire social causes.

- Dream Collective, an ever-evolving collective of trans/queer people fighting for liberation for all, particularly Black, Indigenous, trans/queer people of color through art and community initiatives.

- Carmen (Yolanda) González, is an artist, Holyoke native, and owner of Creativity Events/Art.

The Panel Mural Project will feature the work of Frankie Borrero, a Puerto Rican artist born in New York City, raised in Worcester, and now living in Springfield. Borrero has also worked with Centro Las Americas in Worcester and Fresh Paint in

Springfield.

The three Storefront Installations have been produced under the artistic leadership of Shey Rivera Rios, with collaborating artists Madeline Medina, Yadilette Rivera-Colón, and Chelvanaya Gabriel. Rivera (pronouns: they/them) is an interdisciplinary artist, arts administrator, and community organizer living in Providence, RI. Rivera was invited to be part of El Corazón project by the Advisory Committee of local community leaders spearheading this place-keeping project. In addition to creating and coordinating the Storefront Installations, Rivera has advised the artist selection process and has provided mentorship during the development of the artworks.

Two Storefront Installations are located at Nueva Esperanza, Inc on Main Street, and one is located at the Center for Design Engagement on Dwight Street.

Artists whose work are included in the storefront projects include:

- Chelvanaya “Naya” Gabriel is a visual activist, multimedia storyteller whose work is interwoven with social justice facilitation and community-building activities.

- Dr. Yadilette Rivera-Colón is a native of Puerto Rico, a researcher, and an educator at Bay Path University. Rivera-Colon combines traditional practices with modern elements to create Vejigante masks that tell the stories of her ancestors.

- Madeline Medina is an entrepreneur that composes artworks made with artificial flowers.

El Corazón / The Heart of Holyoke is a cultural place-keeping project celebrating the Puerto Rican Cultural Area of Holyoke. The project commissions public artworks, including banners, large-scale artworks, dynamic lighting, murals, food trucks, and art festivals on Main Street, to reflect the vital culture

of the surrounding neighborhoods. El Corazón/ The Heart of Holyoke aims to develop spaces and places that are reflective of the Center City community, celebrate cultural heritage, and promote economic opportunity in the city.

El Corazón / The Heart of Holyoke is possible through the generous support from community members in and outside of Holyoke who donated through the “Commonwealth Places” Crowdfunding Campaign in spring 2020. The crowdfunding campaign raised a total of \$25,260, which was matched with a \$20,000 grant by the Massachusetts Development & Finance Agency (Mass Development). The City of Holyoke, the National Endowment for the Arts, Holyoke Local Cultural Council, Mass Cultural Council, and our Artistic Director, The Center for Design Engagement (CDE) are key partners for this project. CDE is a non-profit community & design resource center in Holyoke, MA providing progressive design, innovative public art, and civic engagement, particularly in underrepresented communities. Key CDE personnel on this project are Directors Joseph Krupczynski and Caryn Brause. The City of Holyoke’s Office of Planning & Economic Development (OPED) is the lead City agency on this project.

Other partners include Mass Development, Nueva Esperanza, Inc., Holyoke Gas and Electric, the Member Organizations of the El Corazón Advisory Board including Enlace de Familias, South Holyoke Neighborhood Association, One Holyoke Community Development Corporation, Providence Ministries, Holyoke Media, Paper City Clothing Company, Radioplasma Podcast Holyoke - a Holyoke community media project, El Sol Latino, Holyoke Public Schools, and the Puerto Rican Cultural Project.

HPS holding educator recruiting fair

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Schools are holding our 7th Annual Holyoke Public Schools Educator Recruitment Fair on Thursday, April 29 (virtually) from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Principals and representatives from all schools will be in attendance.

4:00-4:30 p.m. Welcome and

Overview of Event

4:30-5:15 p.m. General School Information Sessions

5:15-6:30 p.m. 1:1 Interviews with Principals

Please upload your resume and be prepared to interview with principals or other district leaders, and meet future

colleagues.

Please register by visiting the following link: <https://lnkd.in/dvajH6Q>

We look forward to meeting you on April 29. Please submit your application ahead of time to the HPS Employment portal: <https://lnkd.in/bW373NY>.

HG&E is studying the feasibility of offering internet service to residential customers in the City of Holyoke. This potential new service, called **Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH)**, uses fiber optic cables to bring fast, reliable internet into residential dwellings. While HG&E is capable of providing residential FTTH service, there must be sufficient interest and demand for the service in order for the venture to be economically viable and not have an adverse impact on utility rates. In order to determine the level of interest in the community, we want to hear from HG&E customers who would like to subscribe to a local, residential fiber internet service.

Learn more and complete the interest form at hged.com/ftth.

99 Suffolk St | Holyoke, MA 01040 | 413-536-9300 | hged.com

PHONE
413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7017
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

Interim Editor
Gregory Scibelli
thesun@turley.com

WEB
www.sun.turley.com

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Guest speakers brought in for “Spirit of Girls’ event

HOLYOKE – Girls Inc. of the Valley announces commitments from notable women for their 2021 Spirit of Girls event: Senator Elizabeth Warren, Former NASA Astronaut, Dr. Cady Coleman, Mount Holyoke College Leadership Fellow and Political Figure, Carmen Yulín Cruz, Actress, Tequilla Whitfield, WWLP Weeknight Anchor, Ciara Speller, and Girls Inc. President & CEO, Dr. Stephanie J. Hull. Along with sponsor, Wolf & Company, P.C., this event will help Girls Inc. of the Valley raise \$105,000 to support ongoing program needs for girls in the Valley.

Girls Inc. of the Valley’s Spirit of Girls is usually held in-person at the Log Cabin, where a room of 500 people hear directly from Girls Inc. girls just how much their programs have impacted them. They’ve had to leave their in-person events behind and opt for safer, virtual options, which is why this year’s Spirit of Girls event will be held 100% virtually. Attendees will still feel the familiar sentiments of the traditional program as they will hear directly from girls, staff, and notable celebrities, regarding the importance of celebrating her place at the table. This year’s event will be held on Thursday, May 6 from 8 to 9 a.m. Upon registration, attendees will be provided with an event link from Girls Inc. of the Valley to participate virtually.

Girls Inc. of the Valley has received commitments from a variety of notable women throughout the community, including Senator Elizabeth Warren. Elizabeth is recognized as one of the nation’s top experts on bankruptcy and the financial pressures facing middle class families, and the Boston Globe has called her “the plainspoken voice of people getting crushed by so many predatory lenders and under regulated banks.”

She is widely credited for the original thinking, political courage, and relentless persistence that led to the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. President Obama asked her to set up the new agency to hold Wall Street banks and other financial institutions accountable, and to protect consumers from financial tricks and traps often hidden in mortgages, credit cards and other financial products.

Former NASA Astronaut, Dr. Cady Coleman is a former NASA Astronaut and Air Force Colonel with more than 180 days in space, accumulated during two space shuttle missions and a six-month expedition to the International Space Station (ISS), where she acted as the Lead Robotics and Lead Science officer. Dr. Coleman is a vocal advocate for inclusion in STEM/STEAM fields and a sought-after speaker on a wide range of topics. She recently co-anchored ABC News Live’s coverage of the SpaceX launch and the Mars Perseverance rover landing.

Mount Holyoke College Leadership Fellow and Political Figure, Carmen Yulín Cruz, will be a part of this year’s Spirit of Girls event as well. Carmen Yulín Cruz is the author of *El Poder está en la Calle* (Power is in the Street). In it, she writes about the struggles and experiences of the people, and how rewarding it can be to find their own power to change society and to change the country. She has served as an advisor to the then-Mayor of San Juan, Sila María Calderón, and then went on to advise the Speaker of the Puerto Rico House of Representatives, until finding her own path and deciding to run for office. In 2008 she was elected Representative At-Large for the Puerto Rico House of Representatives.

Actor Tequilla Whitfield made her first leading role debut in two holiday movies for TVOne’s “A Royal Holiday” and “A Royal Family Christmas” starring Vivica A. Fox, Debbi Morgan and Richard Lawson. She made her big screen debut in the hit movie “Hidden Figures” alongside Octavia Spencer and Taraji P Henson. She also appeared on the Emmy and Golden Globe winning show on FX “Atlanta.” Recently she appeared on Netflix hit show “Teenage Bounty Hunters.” Some of her other television credits includes FOX’s “Shots Fired” and “The Resident.”

Her passion for acting is like singing the blues at 3 a.m. in the jazz club. It heals her heart and it feeds her soul.

Weeknight Anchor Ciara Speller joined WWLP-22News in July of 2017 as a multimedia journalist. Prior to her work at WWLP, Ciara received a master’s degree in Journalism from Emerson College in Boston where she was awarded the Journalism Graduate Student Award. Ciara also attended Salve Regina University where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Communications and minored in Dance. A native of New Hampshire, Ciara was actively involved in New Hampshire politics where she covered rallies during the last presidential campaign. She also had the opportunity to report from the 2017 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C. for WEBN-TV in Boston.

Stephanie J. Hull is President and CEO of Girls Inc., the national organization that inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. Girls Inc. delivers life-changing programs and experiences to more than 132,000 girls through a network of 80 local organizations across the U.S. and Canada. Girls Inc. also advocates for policy and culture change

to strengthen opportunities for girls and improve the conditions in which all girls are growing up. Under Dr. Hull’s leadership, the Girls Inc. network is expanding into new high-need communities and developing new partnerships with schools to bring the proven Girls Inc. programming experience to more girls, ensuring that they have the resources and opportunities to thrive.

The audience will meet the girls (virtually), and celebrate each girl as she takes her place at the table. Girls Inc. girls ranging in age from 7 to 17 are excited to share their stories and experiences in Girls Inc. of the Valley programs with attendees. Fundraising will happen online before, during, and after the event, with the ambitious goal of raising \$105,000 to fund ongoing program needs at Girls Inc. of the Valley.

“We are so thrilled to have such strong, smart, and bold role models volunteering to lend their voices to Spirit of Girls 2021” said Suzanne Parker, Girls Inc. of the Valley’s Executive Director. “Coupled with the stories of our girls, staff, and community partners, we know attendees will leave Spirit of Girls feeling empowered and inspired. Please join us virtually on May 6th as we celebrate her place at the table from the comfort of your home.”

Girls Inc. of the Valley aims to inspire all girls to see themselves as leaders with the skills and capabilities to improve and influence their local communities. We hope folks will leave feeling enthusiastic about the next generation of leaders, who are already leading in their communities.

If interested, or have questions please contact Meghan Rothschild at (413) 218-4994 or meghan@chikmedia.us.

HCC opens summer/fall registration

HOLYOKE – Registration is now open for summer and fall classes at Holyoke Community College, and that includes approximately 400 classes that will meet on campus for in-person learning beginning Sept. 7.

Summer classes at HCC are being offered in both five-week and seven-week formats: Summer Session I begins June 6 and runs five weeks; Summer Session II begins July 12 and runs five weeks; HCC’s full summer session runs for seven weeks, with classes starting June 7 and June 8.

With the exception of some courses in a few specific academic areas, most summer classes are being offered fully online or in a blended remote format (a combination of scheduled virtual class meetings and online course work).

For the fall 2021 semester, however, HCC plans to add at least 400 classes across the curriculum that will meet on campus at least part time for in-person instruction, with many meeting as much as 100 percent in person. HCC will also continue to offer fully online classes and blended remote classes for students who might be more comfortable with those options.

“As more residents of Massachusetts are able to be vaccinated throughout the spring and summer, we expect that the spread of COVID-19 will be greatly reduced by fall,” said Mark Hudgik, director of Admissions. “We will still be taking steps to miti-

gate exposure. For example, masks and social distancing will be required, on campus class sizes will be smaller, and we will continue to monitor the situation and be prepared to shift to remote learning if necessary. However, we think this is an important step on the return to normal life.”

To maximize available options for students, HCC will continue to offer multiple, flexible start dates during the fall 2021 semester: Full fall semester classes start Sept. 7 and run for 14 weeks; Fall Start II classes being Sept. 27 and run for 12 weeks; Fall Start III classes begin Oct. 27 and run for seven weeks.

“Students can choose from all of the available class modalities as well as start dates to create a schedule that best meets their individual needs,” Hudgik said.

To help prospective students make informed decisions, the HCC Admissions office is holding weekly virtual information sessions on the following Tuesdays from noon - 1 p.m.: April 20, April 27, May 4, May 18 and May 25; as well as Tuesday, May 11, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

To register for one of these live Zoom information sessions with an HCC Admissions counselor, please go to: hcc.edu/visit-campus

For more information on HCC classes or to enroll, please visit hcc.edu/admission or call 413-552-2321.

Pre-K program still has openings available

HOLYOKE – Please call the Enrollment Center at 413-534-2000 to learn about where space is available. You can then enroll your child online at enrollholyoke.com.

We offer a variety of programs such as part day, full day, dual language, and Valley Opportunity

Council-operated PreK. HPS offers free preschool in the Donahue, E.N. White, Kelly, McMahon, Metcalf, Morgan, and Sullivan schools. To apply for the Preschool lottery for SY21-22, students must be a minimum of 3 years old on or before September 1, 2021, and be a resident of Holyoke.

Gary Rome joins HCC for ‘Drive to Change Lives’ fundraising campaign

HOLYOKE – Gary Rome, owner of Gary Rome Hyundai in Holyoke, is partnering with the HCC Foundation on a one-day campaign to raise money for student support programs and scholarships at Holyoke Community College.

The “Drive to Change Lives” campaign is set for Tuesday, April 27, and will run a full 24 hours, from 12:01 a.m. to midnight at hcc.edu/drive

The goal of the campaign, which continues the “Together HCC” initiative started last year, is to raise money for student support programs and increase awareness about the issues that can impede student success.

Rome has pledged a donation challenge of \$10,000 once the campaign’s goals are met: secure 150 new donors and 1,000 social media comments, likes, or shares using the hashtag #TogetherHCC.

“The ‘Drive to Change Lives’ campaign is about making a difference,” said Rome. “I hope my \$10,000 challenge will shine a light on this important institution and all it does for our region, and that it will encourage others to make it a habit to give to HCC.”

The one-day campaign has the potential to unlock more than \$100,000 in matching donations from HCC alumni and friends, which would put twice that much money into three areas that directly support HCC students: the President’s Student Emergency Fund; the Thrive Student Resource Center and Food Pantry; and scholarships.

The biggest challenge donation comes from HCC alumna Peg Wendlandt ’58 and her husband Gary Wendlandt, who have pledged to match every individual gift up to \$1,000, dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$100,000.

“On any given day, many of our

students struggle with non-academic challenges that can derail their educations if left unaddressed – hunger, housing insecurity, homelessness, affordable healthcare, lack of access to technology, transportation, and childcare,” said Julie Phillips, HCC coordinator of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving. “The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many of those obstacles. We created ‘Together HCC’ to bring attention to these issues and help students through these tough times.”

The HCC Foundation launched “Together HCC: A Campaign for Caring” in March 2020 to build moral support for the college community during a time of increasing uncertainty while also raising money for students experiencing financial distress due to the pandemic.

As part of the campaign, members of the HCC community – students, staff, faculty, alumni, relatives and college friends – were asked to use the hashtag #TogetherHCC to share stories and images on social media that demonstrated the resilience of the college community in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The campaign raised \$40,000 for the Student Emergency Fund and was selected as a finalist for a national Bellwether award.

“For 75 years, HCC has been changing lives, paving the way for generations of learners in western Massachusetts and beyond,” Phillips said. “On April 27, ‘Together HCC: Drive to Change Lives’ will enable all of us to come together to celebrate and support the school where so many students and alumni have found their calling.”

To donate, please visit: hcc.edu/drive.

Community College presidents: No vaccine mandate

HOLYOKE – In a joint statement, the presidents of all 15 community colleges in Massachusetts said that none of their colleges will require students, faculty and staff to receive a COVID-19 vaccination before returning to campus for in-person classes, although vaccinations will be strongly encouraged.

“Now that all Massachusetts residents 16+ are eligible to access appointments, we strongly urge our students, employees, and all in our college communities to receive a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as they are able,” the presidents said in the statement released Tuesday through the Massachusetts

Association of Community Colleges.

For the fall 2021 semester Holyoke Community College, for one, is offering some 400 classes across the curriculum that will meet on campus at least part time for in-person instruction, with many meeting as much as 100 percent in person. HCC will also continue to offer fully online classes and blended remote classes for students who might be more comfortable with those options.

“We are aware that some residential colleges have announced vaccine mandates for students before they return to campus,” HCC president Christina Royal said in a separate statement. “As

of this moment, HCC does not have such a policy for students who elect to take in-person classes in the fall. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have followed health and safety guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and the state Dept. of Public Health, in consultation with our legal counsel, and we will continue to do so going forward.”

Most classes at HCC have been meeting online or remotely since the pandemic started in March 2020.

“Considerations for the fall semester continue to develop and are subject to change, but the community colleges

are not contemplating COVID-19 vaccine mandates at this time,” the joint statement from the community college presidents concludes. “It is essential that we meet the needs of all of our students, who are often from the communities hit hardest by this pandemic and facing disproportionate access to the COVID-19 vaccine. And now, it is more important than ever to prioritize equity, and creating additional barriers for our students would go against our critically important mission of open access for all.”

The full statement from the 15 community college presidents in Massachusetts is attached.

Homework House to host annual adult spelling bee

HOLYOKE – It’s time to grab your dictionaries and to spell success for Holyoke children! The Sixth Annual Adult Spelling Bee to benefit Homework House will be held on Thursday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m. online over Zoom and YouTube Live. This annual event is one of the major fundraisers for Homework House which has been providing free academic tutoring and mentoring for 15 years to school age children in Holyoke.

This year, Homework House is joining with The Spelling Bee Company from Los Angeles to create a virtual event that is a spelling bee, pledge-a-thon, and comedy show all rolled into one. Ten teams of enthusiastic spellers will gather on the virtual stage along with The Spelling Bee Company. The professional performers and comedians from the Spelling Bee Company will keep the spellers on their toes and the laughs coming as the evening’s emcees and Spelling Bee judges.

Each team will gather pledges in advance of the event that they can use

to ‘cheat’, ‘phone a friend’, or as a ‘life-line’ during the Bee. The more pledges they raise, the more cheats a team can buy. The winning team gets a trophy and bragging rights as the best spellers in Holyoke. There will also be prizes for the best team costume and the best team name. The evening is destined to be a smash hit!

Peoples Bank is the Bee’s Knees Sponsor of the event. Additional sponsorship opportunities and team registration are now available.

Homework House serves children, ages 6 – 12. Since its beginning, it has offered free tutoring and mentoring. During the pandemic, it continues its services virtually. Tutors, many who are volunteers from local colleges and the community, provide individualized instruction to strengthen children’s educational learning and retention.

To register for a sponsorship or to register a team, please email Suzanne Boniface at sboniface@homeworkhouse-holyoke.org or call her at 413-265-1017.

HCC Foundation scholarship deadline Friday, April 16

HOLYOKE - The deadline to apply for a Holyoke Community College Foundation scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic year is Friday, April 16.

More than \$245,000 in awards is available for incoming, continuing and transferring HCC students through more than 150 different scholarships.

Students must be currently enrolled at HCC or have been accepted for the upcoming academic year to be eligible for scholarships, which are awarded through the HCC Foundation, HCC’s nonprofit fundraising corporation.

“Now more than ever, as more students and families face financial insecurity due to COVID-19, scholarships are essential to helping students succeed,” said Amanda Sbriscia, vice president of Institutional Advancement and executive director of the HCC Foundation. “Amid this challenging year, our donors have responded with extraordinary gener-

osity, and we are so grateful for their continued belief in HCC students and our mission.”

Applicants only need to fill out a single online form to be automatically matched with the scholarships they are most qualified to receive. There are scholarships for new students, current students and students transferring to other institutions, scholarships based on financial need, scholarships for students in specific majors, scholarships for residents of certain communities, and scholarships that recognize academic achievement.

For the 2020-2021 academic year, the HCC Foundation awarded scholarships to more than 200 students.

To view scholarship opportunities and begin the application process, please go to: www.hcc.edu/scholarships.

Questions should be directed to the HCC Foundation office at 413-552-2182, or email the scholarship team at scholarships@hcc.edu.

Museum to host trivia contest

HOLYOKE – From May 2 through May 5, Wistariahurst will host an online trivia contest curated by Wistariahurst intern, Alex Santiago. Come learn more about activist Carlos Vega and the Latinx history of Holyoke in this new trivia event! The contest is free to enter and fun prizes will be awarded. Registration is required at www.Wistariahurst.org.

Participants are invited to explore a PowerPoint presentation and play an online trivia game related to “The Carlos Vega Collection of Latino History in Holyoke.” The PowerPoint and the trivia game will be available both in English and in Spanish and will be posted on www.Wistariahurst.org from Sunday, May 2 through Wednesday, May 5. A link to the trivia contest and to the award ceremony will be sent out to all who register.

Press Club scholarship deadline extended

AGAWAM – Deadline for The Valley Press Club Scholarships for students who are interested in pursuing a career in journalism, has been extended to Friday, May 7.

Scholarships available are:

- The Valley Press Club Scholarships, funded by contributions and dues to the Press Club, are for students planning careers in print, online or broadcast journalism.
- The Republican Scholarship, funded by The Republican, is for students living within the newspaper’s circulation area who are planning careers in print journalism.
- The 22News Scholarship, funded by WWLP-22News is for students planning careers in broadcast journalism.
- The Edward J. Malley Jr. Memorial Scholarship, established in

memory of a chief photographer for the Springfield Newspapers, is for students planning careers in photo-journalism.

- The Rhonda Swan Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of the award-winning journalist, editor and author, is for students who are underrepresented, in the Springfield, Mass. area, planning careers in journalism.
- The Al Jaffe Scholarship, funded by Mr. Jaffe, the Valley Press Club’s first scholarship recipient in 1964, who retired in 2015 as vice president of talent negotiation and production recruitment at ESPN, is for students planning careers in broadcast journalism or sports journalism.

Primary emphasis is placed on career goals, writing ability, scholas-

tic aptitude and overall achievement as measured by an applicant’s high school transcript, class rank, academic awards, SAT scores and extracurricular activities.

Scholarship applications are available at www.ValleyPressClub.com. Applications may be sent by mail to Noreen Tassinari, VPC Scholarship Chair, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089 or electronically to NTassinari@TheBigE.com. The deadline for submissions is now May 7. Over the course of five decades, The Valley Press Club has presented over \$130,000 in scholarships to eligible students.

The Valley Press Club consists of active and retired journalists and public relations professionals from corporate and nonprofit organizations.

PECK, from page 1

school project within the district was discussed and had received favorable action by gaining an invite to the first step of the grant program. The MSBA’s website breaks down the process into eight parts starting with an extensive eligibility period, once the school is invited a 270-day period is initiated in order for the Holyoke district to complete certain preliminary requirements.

Some of the requirements include the district completing an Initial Compliance Certification showing the district’s understanding of the grant pro-

gram rules, forming a school building committee and submitting the membership to the MSBA for acceptance, giving a summary of the district’s current maintenance practices, a certification of a design for the proposed project that’s agreed upon with the MSBA, confirmation of community authorization and funding to proceed, and the execution of the MSBA’s standard Feasibility Study Agreement.

This last step will establish a process for the district to be reimbursed for eligible expenses; if the district moves beyond the Eligibility Period they’ll move on to the second module of the

Project Team. The project for Peck School hasn’t been disclosed yet but Holyoke has 270 day after Apr. 14 to complete all of the previously mentioned requirements. During this 270-day period the MSBA will work with the district to determine it financial and community readiness to enter the MSBA Capital Pipeline.

A press release from the MSBA outlines the next few steps for the Peck school, and that the MSBA will work with local officials to ensure the best outcome for the district’s students. “The Eligibility period is a critical step in the MSBA’s process of evaluating potential

work on the William R. Peck School.” Executive Director Jack McCarthy said. “We look forward to our continued partnership with the District as it enters the Eligibility Period.”

While the district is working on the 270-day Eligibility Period requirements, residents can also keep in mind that the roof projects for the E.N. White Elementary School, Lt. Clayre P. Sullivan School, and Maurice A. Donahue Elementary School are anticipated to start during the summer of next year and conclude that fall. There will be a lot of activity with the schools in the district very soon.

COVID-19 testing at HCC extended through June

HOLYOKE – Even though infection rates have been dropping and vaccinations are becoming more readily available, free “Stop the Spread” COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended through June 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college’s main campus,

303 Homestead Ave.

Wait times for tests are not nearly as long as they used to be, according to site administrators, with only a handful of vehicles lined up at the busiest times.

HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since last summer to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to

parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary.

Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations: <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>.

Free virtual community COVID-19 town halls to by Baystate Health

SPRINGFIELD – The public is invited to participate in several free virtual Community COVID-19 Town Halls presented by Baystate Health in conjunction with Focus Springfield.

The three informative Town Halls, including one presented in Spanish, will be held on April 20, April 22 and April 28 from 5 to 6 p.m.

Among the many topics to be discussed include how the vaccines work, differences between the vaccines, vaccine safety, what does it feel like to be vaccinated, how well you will be protected, side effects, when you will be able to be vaccinated, how to sign up to be vaccinated, how the vaccine is being distributed in your community, concerns over fertility and pregnancy when getting the vaccine, and more.

- **Wednesday, April 28 – What You Need to Know About the COVID Vaccines:** Fertility and Pregnancy, presented by Dr. Lauren Westafer, MPH, MS, an emergency medicine physician at Baystate Health, and Dr. Oscar Martinez, an OB/GYN physician at Baystate Health.

- **Wednesday, April 28 – What You Need to Know About the COVID Vaccines,** presented by Dr. Durane Walker, internal medicine physician and infectious disease specialist at Baystate Health.

A Zoom participant Q and A will follow each presentation with the community invited to submit questions in advance.

Participants can join the Zoom webinars at their scheduled times at focusspringfield.com/baystate-town-hall.

Questions can be submitted at forms.gle/TYoyvq2TQB81Tx79A.

In addition to Zoom, participants can also join by:

- Watching Pubic Access TV Channel 12
- Calling in by phone (646-558-8656, use webinar ID: 818 9424 0568)
- Streaming live through Facebook

or YouTube (connecting links may be found at their scheduled times at focusspringfield.com/baystate-town-hall

Closed captions available and all programs will be recorded and available for on-demand viewing.

Mall hours expanding toward normal

HOLYOKE – Effective Friday, April 23, 2021, Holyoke Mall will begin a phased expansion of its hours of operation:

PHASE 1:
Beginning April 23, 2021
• Monday – Saturday:
Open at 10 a.m.
• Thursday - Saturday:
Close at 9 p.m.
(No change in current closing time on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday in Phase 1)
• Sunday:
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PHASE 2:
Beginning June 28, 2021
• Monday – Saturday:

Close at 9:30 p.m.

• Sunday:
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

“Given the steady increases in traffic we are seeing at Holyoke Mall, combined with increased vaccination rollout, and pent-up customer demand for more venues to be open earlier and later in the day, we are excited to begin ramping back to regular operating hours in the coming days,” said Lisa Wray, Marketing Director, Holyoke Mall at Ingleside.

Guests are reminded that restaurant and entertainment venues may continue to offer extended hours into the evening and are encouraged to call ahead to confirm a specific venue’s hours of operation or visit the center’s online directory.

Mall hosting special job fair

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Mall is hosting a special “Get Hired!” job fair featuring more than 50 businesses looking to fill more than 150 part- and full-time positions. Available jobs vary and will be added daily to Holyoke Mall’s website [holyokemall.com](https://www.holyokemall.com) from a variety of tenants looking to fill open positions. Potential candidates can apply for everything from line cooks, operations associates, and retail sales associates to general managers, specialty leasing representatives and cosmetic artists. These positions will add to the more than 3,000 jobs Holyoke Mall provides within Holyoke and Hampden County.

How to Apply:
• **Online:** Potential candidates can simply visit Holyoke Mall’s job board online <https://www.holyokemall.com/jobs/> to review current available job opportunities (new positions added daily).

• **In Person:** Beginning today, potential candidates can visit Holyoke Mall and identify businesses that are hiring by spotting the special “Get Hired!” Job Fair sign in the storefront windows. Candidates can then scan the QR code on the sign, which will bring them to Holyoke Mall’s web page listing available positions. In many instances, candidates can link directly to an online application and apply right

from their smart phone. Some business window signs may also indicate that they have applications available inside.

o **Beginning Monday, April 26,** select businesses at Holyoke Mall will have a hiring table outside of their entrance to conduct on site interviews on their date of choice. Interested applicants can visit [holyokemall.com](https://www.holyokemall.com) for designated dates and times for this opportunity.

Hiring Event Period
• April 19 to May 2
Businesses Hiring
• 99 Restaurant & Pub
• 110 Grill
• American Eagle
• Best Buy
• Champs
• Christmas Tree Shops
• Forever 21
• JCPenney
• Hannoush
• Hollister
• Holyoke Mall Specialty Leasing
• Macy’s
• Old Navy
• Round1 Bowling & Amusement
• Yankee Candle
And more.

For a list of available positions, job seekers can also visit <https://www.holyokemall.com/jobs/> where new positions are updated daily.

Missing child identified in Chicopee

CHICOPEE – On Wednesday, April 14, the Chicopee Police Department Underwater Response Team was actively conducting a search of the Chicopee and Connecticut Rivers as part of an ongoing search and recovery operation for a missing boy from Chicopee.

At 11:15 a.m., officers located a body in the water in between the North End Bridge and Memorial Bridge. The Chicopee Police Detective Bureau and the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney’s Office

were called to the scene.

The victim was transported to the Hampden County Medical Examiner’s Office, and has been identified as Aiden Blanchard, 12, of Chicopee. This is an on-going investigation being conducted by the Chicopee Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Hampden District Attorney’s Office.

Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni offers his sympathies to the Aiden’s family during this difficult time.

KENILWORTH, from page 1

The rooms were filled with oil paintings, some of them by renowned artists. Many of them were of scenes in Italy. There were also numerous 19th century white marble statues.

Kenilworth, in the fairy tale tradition had everything a castle needed.

Taft’s paper company eventually failed and with it his health. He sold the Suffolk St. home and planned to reside permanently at Kennilworth. He died in 1897 only a week after moving into his dream castle.

On Oct. 30 of that year, his daughter Lucretia married William D. Flagg, and the couple moved into Kenilworth. He spoke frequently at local functions until his retirement when he contented himself raising prize poultry and tending to his horses.

Flagg’s health eventually failed and he was confined to Kenilworth until his death. By that time the castle had become so famous that mail would reach the owner when addressed only to William D. Flagg, Kenilworth, Mass.

The Flaggs were childless, and after her husband’s death, Lucretia was left to preside over the fairy tale world of the castle. She has been described by those who knew her as a lovely warm woman and a great lady.

A constant flow of tourists and trespassers eventually created a problem for Kenilworth’s tenant. Mrs. Flagg withdrew more and more and finally became a recluse permitting no-one on the grounds but her lawyers and domestic help.

Although she would not let the world in, she would venture into it. She liked to go for long rides, and she liked drive-in movies and dining in restau-

rants. A pet cemetery complete with headstones on the Kenilworth grounds testified to her fondness for animals. She was by all accounts, a kind woman separated from the world.

Lucretia Flagg died in the spring of 1957, and the Hadley Falls Trust Co. became responsible for her estate. It was difficult to find a buyer and eventually many furnishings were bought by local business men and an antique dealer in Bernardston. The contents of Kenilworth scattered. Some of the statuary was bought by buyers from Turners Falls. The great breakfront that was in the dining room became the backbar at the former Yankee Peddler Inn. The lovely stained glass window called “The Hunter” was also purchased by them. Various other pieces remained in Holyoke. There is enough left to keep the memory alive.

The Holyoke Water Power Co.

bought the building and grounds in 1959. Money from the sale was funneled into an already existing trust fund which Mrs. Flagg left to a cousin. Upon her cousin’s death, the money was distributed to the Massachusetts Society for thr Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Loomis house.

The power company considered putting a power station on the land because the site extended to the river, and there was a pond above. The proposal however was too expensive and the idea was discarded. The company next considered moving its offices onto the property and had made to see if the building could be used in its plans. The study showed the building had “no significant historical value” and the general feeling that it was unsound. Apparently, there were two schools of thought on this point as an offer was made to turn it into a museum. But sound or unsound the decision was made to raze the castle.

Poetry Corner

What Is Really Education

by Thomas J. Kennedy

I believe above every school door
The sign should say:
"Education to me is
Goodness, Knowledge, Discipline
and Love
Or it is not education."

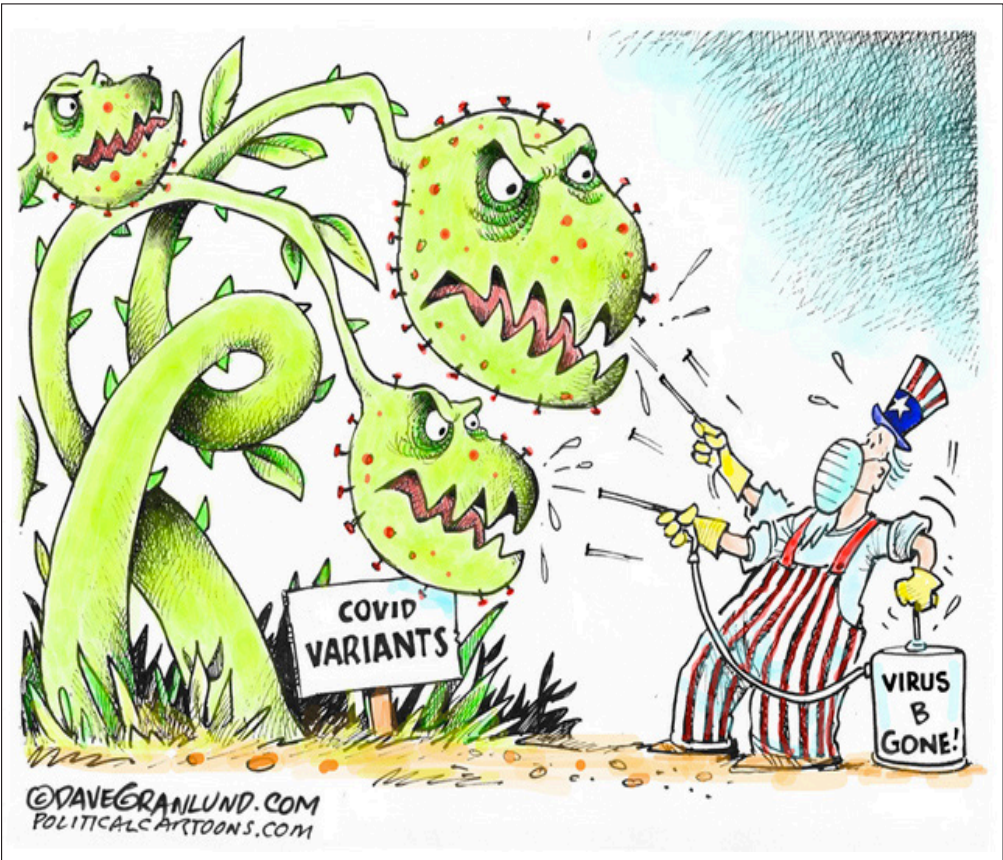
The children are children and some day
They can be in front of the class as adults.
Every child is unique
and has some undiscovered
Talent who will make
a contribution to its humanity.

We must put God number One —
a higher power
As He spreads perfume with gentle kindness.
There can be no love without
respect, understanding
and listening a little more...

Too romantic and idealistic they say:
"We may never reach it all here,
But follow Faith, no fear, only cheer.
Also we should strive for it."

Look for the Good and everyone you meet —
You never retreat.
Give to others first and care and share
And your compassionate heart
will patiently burst
With Peace, Love and Joy — no thirst.

And
Remember — Education is Goodness,
Knowledge,
Discipline and Love...
Or it is not Education.



Car Parade

We want to help you celebrate!!

We will publish them in our Car Parade Section!

thesun@turley.com

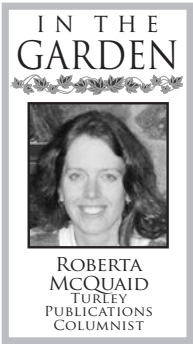
- Please send us
- your Birthday,
- Anniversary
- and Wedding
- announcements.
- Send us a short
- announcement
- no more than
- 40 words and a
- photo if possible.

Guest Column

Enjoy Earth Day while rethinking your gardening practices

Die-hard gardeners celebrate Earth Day year round, I feel. We take pleasure in our yards and the bounty our gardens produce. But when the formal holiday of April 22nd approaches, I pause, analyze my own practices and make sure they are still in tune with my beliefs. While not a purist, I generally try to tread lightly on Mother Earth. I encourage you to take inventory this week as well, and if so inspired, adopt some of the following ideals borrowed from previous columns and add them to your own routines.

Feed the soil, not the plant. Have your soil tested and ask for organic recommendations to correct nutrient deficiencies. Replenishing your garden with amendments like rock phos-



phate and greensand will help to create long-lasting nutrient store-houses. Healthy soil will produce plants that are less prone to insect and disease problems.
Start a compost pile. Layer your vegetable and yard waste, keep it moist and give it a turn; after a few days turn it again. After a short time it will decompose, leaving behind a great source of organic matter. No matter how you garden, be it vegetables, flowers, herbs, fruits or even shrubs, each benefit from a yearly top dressing of "black gold."

Make compost tea. Are your transplants looking a little pale? Rather than sprinkling them with "blue water," perk them up with home-brewed compost tea. Mix one part

well-rotted compost or manure to five parts water and allow it to sit for a week or more. Strain before foliar feeding your plants. Or, take a cup of the manure, pop it in a square of muslin and let it steep in a five gallon bucket. Fill your watering can no straining necessary.
Shop Mom and Pop. Develop a relationship with the garden center you buy your plants and gardening supplies from. Ask them to carry organic seeds, potting soils and pest control options. A friend of mine pestered one local company so much that they now carry everything I mentioned above as well as organic livestock feed.

Reduce, reuse, recycle! I first became familiar with this catch phrase back in 1990, when Earth Day celebrations went global. In

See XXXXXXX, page 7

When can I get benefits from my ex-spouse?

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty: I know that I am able to get Social Security from my ex-husband. We were married for 16 years and I have not remarried. I will be 60 soon and he is 63. I do not know if he is retired yet, as we do not speak. Please advise when I can collect and how to go about the process. Signed: Divorced Lady

Dear Divorced Lady: Since you were married to your ex for more than 10 years and haven't remarried, you may be able to collect a spousal benefit from your ex-husband when you are 62-years-old. Your eligibility will depend upon the amount of your own personal Social Security benefit compared to your ex's benefit amount, but you cannot collect an ex-spouse benefit before age 62. To be eligible for a benefit from your ex-spouse, you must also claim your personal Social Security from your own lifetime work record, and when you claim your own benefit, an

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

ex-spouse benefit will be given, if you are entitled to one.
To be eligible for a benefit from your ex-spouse, your personal Social Security retirement benefit at your own full retirement age (FRA) must be less than 50% of the benefit your ex-husband would get at his FRA (note that FRA amounts are used for this determination, regardless of the age at which either of you claim Social Security). If your FRA benefit amount is less than half of his FRA benefit amount, then you will be entitled to a "spousal boost" to bring your total payment up to your spousal entitlement. But taken at age 62, both of those amounts will be reduced.
Your full retirement age is 67, and if you claim any Social Security benefit before that it will be reduced. At 62, your personal Social Security retirement benefit will be cut by 30% and your spousal boost will also be reduced. So, at age 62, the total amount of benefit you could get (your own benefit plus your spousal

boost) would be about 32.5% of your ex-husband's FRA benefit amount. Nonetheless, if you are comfortable with these benefit reductions, you can claim at age 62, or any age thereafter, by contacting Social Security or, when the time comes, apply online at www.ssa.gov/applyforbenefits. You will need to provide Social Security with a copy of your marriage certificate and your final divorce decree, and you will need to know your ex-husband's Social Security number. If you do not know his Social Security number, you'll need to provide his parents' names and his date and place of birth.
If you wish to find out in advance whether you're entitled to an ex-spouse benefit and how much it is estimated to be, you can contact Social Security at 1.800-772-1213, or call your local Social Security office. You can find the local office number at www.ssa.gov/locator. Please note that all Social Security offices

See XXXXXXX, page 7



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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

INTERIM EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
thesun@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Peter Spotts
psspotts@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA



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WEB
www.sun.turley.com



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A Quote

OF NOTE

"If you don't go after
what you want,
you'll never have it.
If you don't ask,
the answer
is always no.
If you don't
step forward
you're always
in the same place."

Nora Roberts

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

GARDEN, from page 6

the context of plastic pots and other containers used to grow or move plants, I'd like to think that the local Mom and Pop shop would take back the pots you bought their plants in and use them to grow next years crop. If not, maybe you could reuse them to start some homegrown seedlings and recycle the rest. I sure do, and when they get old and tattered I double them up! An even better solution for earth-conscious growers would be to replace plastic with fiber (stronger than peat and made from recycled materials to boot).

Use the least toxic measures to control bugs and other garden thugs. Beer to trap slugs, and baking soda for black spot, the list of remedies to fight garden maladies is numerous and not always a stretch of the imagination. If you choose a chemical option, follow the manufacturer's recommendations. Assuming that more is better is outdated and dangerous thinking! We especially worry about our pollinator populations these days.

Conserve water. We all know that watering during the heat of the day results in lots of moisture lost to evaporation while watering in the evening can make plants more prone to disease. What to do? For happy, hydrated plants water in the early morning hours instead. Hand watering at the base of each plant or using soaker hoses or drip irrigation is far better than overhead sprinklers when it comes to conservation and disease prevention.

Extend the harvest. Do you know how far most fruits and vegetables have

to travel to reach the local supermarket? Probably far more than the average American travels in a year's time. Frustrated? Then read up on various methods of extending the use of your own garden bounty past the growing season. This could mean growing a few veggies like winter squash, onions or garlic, all of which store well. It could also mean trying your hand at freezing or drying some of your produce for use in the offseason. I just thawed out some roasted peppers for dinner tonight. It is a good feeling. Few of us can feed ourselves entirely, but whatever we can grow offsets the rest.

Enjoy Earth Day while rethinking your gardening practices.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



Garden Club holds Arbor Day tree planting

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Garden Club, in conjunction with the Springfield Parks Department, will hold an Arbor Day Tree Planting on Friday, April 30 at 1 p.m. in the Memorial Grove at Forest Park.

One hundred years ago, one pin oak tree was planted in Forest Park for each of the 150 men from Springfield who gave their lives fighting in World War I, known at the time as The Great War. That the Memorial Grove remains today - providing new generations with shade and beauty-- is a testament to the foresight of those who planted the mighty oaks when they were but seedlings in 1920.

A plaque placed on a boulder in the grove in 1921 by the Publicity Club commemorates the planting and

the soldiers who gave their lives.

Over time, some of the trees have died but due to the efforts of Eagle Scout Geoffrey Klafeta of Troop 77, six were planted in 2018 to replenish some of the missing trees. With the tree to be planted on the 30th and another tree planting planned for 2022, the grove will be 150 trees strong again.

The public is welcome to join the Springfield Garden Club at the ceremony. Masks and social distancing will be required.

For more information on this and other Springfield Garden Club events go to: www.gcfm.org/springfieldgardenclub or visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldMAGardenClub/>.

SECURITY, from page 6

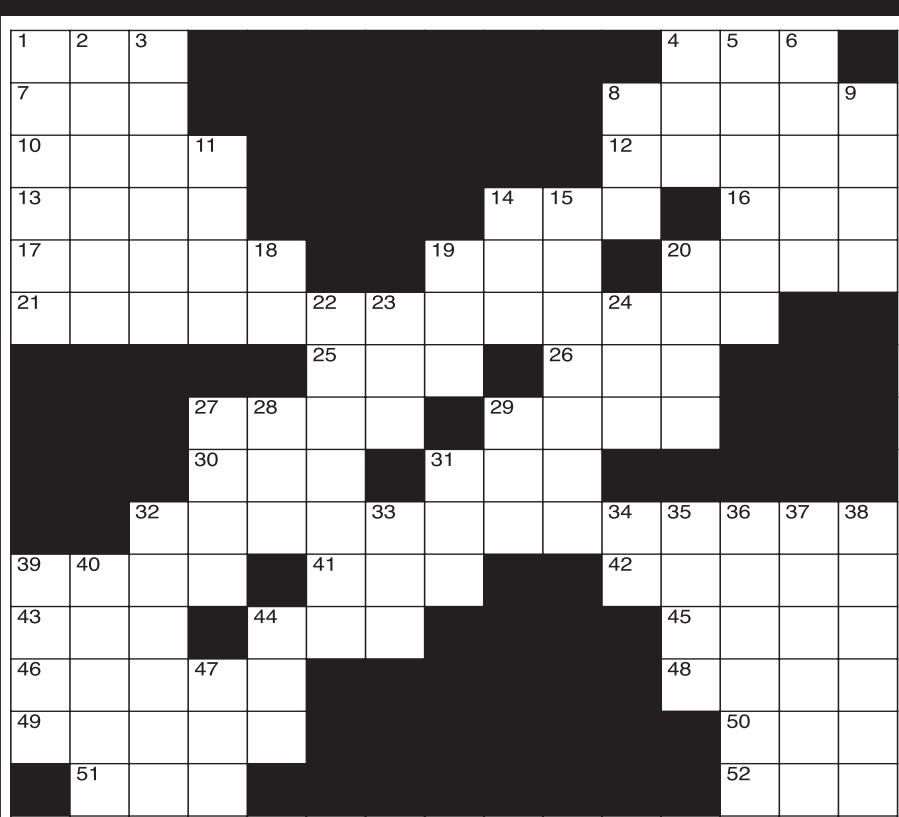
are temporarily closed to public access due to the pandemic, so calling them is your best current option to get an estimate of your spousal benefit.

One final caution: if you claim Social Security before your full retirement age and you are working, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before they take back some of your benefits.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not rep-

resent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Ocean surface indicator (abbr.)
 - 4. American time
 - 7. Satisfaction
 - 8. Diving duck
 - 10. Very small amount
 - 12. Metrical units
 - 13. An ignorant or foolish person
 - 14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
 - 16. It may sting you
 - 17. Turn outward
 - 19. Perform on stage
 - 20. "CSI" actor George
 - 21. Localities
 - 25. Make a choice
 - 26. Indicates position
 - 27. One of Thor's names
- 29. Indian musical rhythmic pattern
 - 30. "The Raven" author
 - 31. Take in solid food
 - 32. Legendary QB
 - 39. Sorrels
 - 41. Organization of nations
 - 42. Texas pharmaceutical company
 - 43. Mathematical term
 - 44. Expression of disappointment
 - 45. Abba __, Israeli politician
 - 46. Hide away
 - 48. Salad restaurant
 - 49. Daughters of Boreas (mythology)
 - 50. Men's fashion
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Make unhappy
 - 2. Heard the confession of
 - 3. Capital of Taiwan
 - 4. Fiddler crab
 - 5. Brazilian dances
 - 6. Fit with device to assist breathing
 - 8. Brother or sister
 - 9. Pastries
 - 11. "Lone Survivor" director Peter
 - 14. Boat type (abbr.)
 - 15. Apertures (biology)
 - 18. Suffix
 - 19. Creative endeavor
 - 20. Icelandic poem
 - 22. Spanish dances
 - 23. Town in Central Italy
 - 24. Cars need it
 - 27. Mimics
 - 28. Rocky peak
 - 29. Cigarette (slang)
 - 31. One point south of due east
 - 32. Soap actress Braun
 - 33. Large domesticated wild ox
 - 34. Island nation
 - 35. Appear
 - 36. Addictive practices
 - 37. Loss of control of one's body
 - 38. Type of poster
 - 39. Greek mountain
 - 40. Funny person
 - 44. One and only
 - 47. Pouch

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 11



FRAUD

JOIN US FOR
A FREE SEMINAR

Protect Yourself: Senior Scams and Fraud

Featured Speakers

Manny Rivera: Elder Service Officer, Holyoke Police Department

Jennifer Sattler: Detective of the Crime Investigation Bureau, Holyoke Police Department

Join us for one of the following in-person sessions. All events will be held outside in our heated tent.*

Tuesday, April 27th or Wednesday, April 28th
12:00pm-1:30pm (lunch will be served)
4:30pm-6:00pm (dinner will be served)

Learn about the latest scams targeting seniors:

- COVID-19 related fraud and scams to watch out for
- Steps to lower your risk of identity theft
- Signs your identity has been stolen
- Immediate actions to minimize identity theft damage

Kindly RSVP at www.RSVPDayBrookVillage.org or call Lynn at 413-538-7551 by April 20th.

Day Brook Village is proud to be COVID-19-free!*

Don't Miss Our Exclusive Event Attendee Savings!"

*Day Brook Village is COVID-19-free as of 3/23/21. As safety is our #1 priority, all in-person sessions will follow CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines. Number of guests will be limited to allow for proper social distancing. All in-person attendees must wear a mask while on campus. Additional information pertaining to our practices to maintain a safe environment for all guests will be provided upon registration.

**Extra savings applied to move ins before 7/31/2021.



DAY BROOK VILLAGE
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A Member of Berkshire Healthcare

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The Holyoke Sun • APRIL 23, 2021 • 7

In The News

AID, from page 1

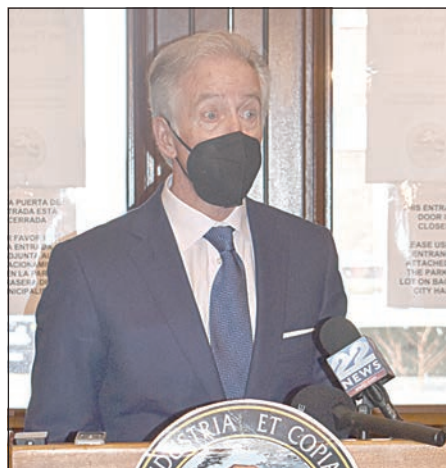
and the federal aid, are essential ingredients in what the American Rescue Plan is trying to accomplish. He also mentioned that he and other government officials are making sure that teachers can get vaccinated and have the resource to receive a vaccination as more schools return to in-person learning. Neal further mentions that \$3.5 million has gone to the Holyoke Public Health Center to help keep the community strong and healthy.

"When you look at what we were able to do in this package there's another part of this that is equally important," Neal said. "It's call a tax expenditure, which I've been fortunate enough to oversee. The refund ability of the child credit is going to have enormous impact on the city of Holyoke."

The plan has increased the amount of the Child Tax Credit and has expanded the age range to 17 for dependent care credit. Now families can receive \$2,000 to \$3,600 for children under six years old, and \$3,000 for other children under the age of 18.

With the \$32 million going to the city, Murphy mentioned a few options for use of the money. He mentioned he definitely wants to work with the city council, school committee policy makers, families, business leaders, and that he'd like to create a community council to hear input on what the money could be used towards. This includes infrastructure and possibly housing. Murphy said that while this plan is helpful to the city, deciding on where the money will go needs to be a community effort but that he thinks he and the community can get things done. Additionally, economic development is going to help the community as a whole.

"I want to do something with health that I've been working on as a city councilor; I mean we have a lot of asthma in Holyoke, and I want to see if we can use some of this money to go into our buildings, potentially including city hall and other buildings, where we have pockets that are causing aggravated asthma," Murphy said. "If I can use some of this money to work with landlords to clean up their environmental impacts of their



Congressman Richard Neal speaks about the purpose of the American Rescue Plan.

old buildings; we can clean them up and also work with the tenants to see, are there things within your apartment that are causing aggravated asthma and let's help clean them up."

He said that having a clean building at home and at school can help kids to feel good when they're attending school, and hopes to use the money the city is



Acting Mayor Terence Murphy address the public on the American Rescue Plan.

Photos by Shelby Macri

receiving to make this possible.

Residents will have to wait to hear what the money will be used on until it's within the city and government officials begin conversations on how to use it. In the meantime, residents can find out more information of the American Rescue Plan at home.treasury.gov.



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Holyoke outlasts game

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON – The first meeting of the Fall 2 season between the Holyoke and Monson girls varsity basketball teams was a very close affair from start to finish.

Trailing by one point with less than two minutes remaining in regulation, the Purple Knights scored the final seven points and celebrated a 53-47 win over the Lady Mustangs at Michael J. Kane Gymnasium last Monday night, April 12.

“I was really happy with my team’s composure and execution during the final minutes of the game,” said Holyoke head coach Andrea Enright. “We also played very well defensively during that stretch.”

The Purple Knights had a perfect 11-0 record following the road victory.

The Lady Mustangs (4-2) saw their amazing 22-game home winning streak come to an end.

“Winning streaks are made to be broken,” said Monson head coach Tim Pasdcale. “It was a very close game and I’m very proud of the way my team played tonight.”

Monson had the height advantage in the contest.

Senior forward Sydnie DeVries, freshman forward Mya Walker, and eighth grade forward Olivia Chrarzan, are all listed at 5’10 or taller on the Lady Mustangs varsity roster. The trio combined to score 41 points against the Purple Knights.

See BASKETBALL, page 11

HOLYOKE OUTLASTS MONSON



Shawn Rivera takes a three-point shot.



Patrick Gubala goes for the layup.



Brian Cristobal makes his way down the court.



Lordi Smith focuses on his shot at the free throw line.



Moises Silva takes a long shot from the sideline. Last Monday afternoon, Monson took their Fall 2 action to Holyoke High School to face a tough Division 1 opponent. The Knights were ready for their visitors, dominating the game on offense and coming away with a 79-47 win.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Ronnie Williams looking for another title run in Modified Series



Ronnie Williams is among the drivers looking to make his way back to a championship this season.

Submitted photo

SEEKONK – Two years ago, Ronnie Williams became the second driver not named Matt Hirschman to win a Tri Track Open Modified Series presented by All Phases Renovations championship. In 2021, he looks to do it again.

Williams, driving for veteran car owner Gary Casella, returns to Tri Track driving the familiar No. 25 he’s taken to Victory Lane before, and hopes to be consistent enough to contend for the title at the end of the six-race schedule.

“Gary can be a clown when

you’re around him, it’s fun,” Williams said. “If you look at Gary, you might not think he can set up a race car... but every single place we go, we are fast. He wants to win, I want to win.... and we just work well together.”

Williams is set for another busy year as a driver, competing full-time chasing his third SK Modified championship at Stafford Motor Speedway, while also running with the Tri Track Series and some select NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour and Open Modified

events. Over the last three years, Williams has become one of the quickest and most successful rising stars the Modified ranks in New England offers.

“It’s fun,” Williams said of all of his driving ventures. “It’s better when we are winning... last year we didn’t have as much success as we would have liked, but hopefully this year we can turn it back around and have some more fun.”

Tri Track will visit three New England race tracks in 2021 – Monadnock Speedway,

See RACING, page 10

MIAA activity picking up

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – It has been a rarity for a team from Western Massachusetts to qualify for the Division 1A tournament, a special tournament for select elite teams in various sports.

A lot of questions have been raised about the future of the Division 1A tournament now that the state is going to a statewide tournament and eliminating the sectional tournaments.

Last Thursday, the Tournament Management Committee met to discuss the subject.

The Division 1A tournament will likely be delayed until 2025 in order to allow the MIAA and its various sport committee to compile four years of data under the new structure.

Division 1A tournaments are dependent on the sport, and not all sports hold one. Hockey, basketball,

soccer, and baseball and softball are among the sports that could possibly hold tournaments. The 1A tournament has been held for hockey in previous years with Pope Francis, previously Cathedral, taking part in the tournament often.

Baseball has also been a sport that has had a 1A tournament in recent years, with many of the state's elite teams qualifying to play in it. The teams that qualify often would abandon their section tournaments to participate in the 1A event.

According to the proposal made to the TMC, any approved 1A tournament must have a format that includes selection and seedings using the same power-rating/ranking system that is used for the other tournaments.

Recently, as part of the move to go to a statewide tournament, Maxpreps was secured to organize tournaments and collect information for rankings for state tournaments. Maxpreps is expected to use

a formula to compile power rankings in order to see tournaments. It is not known exactly what the formula will be, but it could be a modified version of the Walker system, a ranking system utilized by teams from Western Massachusetts for tournaments. The system was developed for use due to the vast diversity among the schools in the region.

The proposal also says any 1A tournament must be single elimination tournaments. There are currently no multi-elimination tournaments with the exception of consolation rounds for wrestlers. But that is an individual, not a team tournament.

According to the proposal, data will be analyzed in the next four years in order to see if dominance exists in particular sports and if there is a need to establish the elite tournament across the state.

There was a 12-2 vote approving the proposal and recommending it to the MIAA Board of Directors.

Premier Lacrosse League coming to Gillette Stadium

FOXBOROUGH – The Premier Lacrosse League (PLL) powered by Ticketmaster announced today that the league will return to Gillette Stadium to kick off the 2021 season with an opening five-game slate June 4 through June 6.

"There's no better location to kick off our 2021 tour than Gillette Stadium," said PLL Co-Founder and CMO Paul Rabil. "Our inaugural weekend in 2019 was a huge success. The fans in New England are passionate, and the Patriots organization is exceptional."

The PLL season will begin at Gillette Stadium for the second time, getting underway with a primetime matchup between Cannons LC and Redwoods LC under the lights on Friday, June 4. Saturday's slate includes a championship rematch between Whipsnakes LC and Chaos LC, followed by Archers LC taking on Atlas LC. On Sunday afternoon, Cannons LC will return to the field against Waterdogs LC, and the weekend will be capped off with a matchup between Chrome LC and Redwoods LC.

The PLL is a tour-based model featuring eight teams and the world's best lacrosse players. In addition to being full-time employees and receiving health benefits, players get equity stakes in the league – a first in professional sports. The league recently announced a merger with Major League Lacrosse, leading to the addition of the PLL's eighth lacrosse club, Cannons LC.

The 2021 PLL season will include 11 tour stops from June to September. For the third consecutive year, PLL games will be distributed via an exclusive media rights agreement with NBC Sports Group with action

being shown through a combination of NBC, NBCSN, and Peacock TV.

The PLL played its inaugural weekend at Gillette Stadium in 2019, and had announced plans to open the 2020 season at the home of the six-time Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots and New England Revolution before COVID-19 forced the adjustment of the season to a three-week quarantined and fanless tournament. Gillette Stadium has also hosted five NCAA Men's Lacrosse Championships since 2008 and holds the NCAA Men's Division I Championship attendance record (2008: 48,970), the top three attendance records for Division I National Championship Games since 2012 (2012: 30,816, 2018: 29,455 and 2017: 28,971) and the top three Division II and Division III National Championship attendance records (2017: 31,560, 2008: 24,317 and 2009: 24,072). The venue hosted professional lacrosse games in 2015, and was recently awarded the 2025 and 2026 NCAA Men's and Division I Women's Lacrosse Championships.

Kraft Group President-International Dan Kraft, who was a collegiate lacrosse goalie for Tufts University in the 1980s and served on the executive Board of the 2018 Federation of International Lacrosse's World Championships Host Committee, expressed his continued support for the league and its ongoing potential to further grow the sport in the New England region and throughout the country.

"We are thrilled to continue our incredible partnership with Paul and Mike Rabil and the Premier Lacrosse League and once again host the league's opening week-

end at Gillette Stadium this summer," Kraft said. "We sincerely missed hosting professional lacrosse in 2020 and cannot wait to welcome the world's best lacrosse players back to Foxborough in 2021 for an exciting opening weekend. We feel Gillette Stadium is the country's preeminent lacrosse venues and look forward to hosting another world-class event promoting the sport in such a large and passionate lacrosse region."

Under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' reopening plan, Gillette Stadium will safely welcome fans to each game, and tickets are available now for all five games at Ticketmaster.com.

The PLL will work with its venue partners to maintain compliance with local and state governance regarding health and safety best practices. This will include standardized weekend-to-weekend health and safety measures, including but not limited to: seating pods, social distancing, enhanced venue cleaning, mobile ticketing, hand sanitation stations, staff and attendee mask requirements. Similar to the 2020 season, the PLL will be working with a committee of medical professionals to develop health and safety protocols for all players, staff and fans. For more information about the PLL and the 2021 season, visit www.premierlacrosseleague.com.



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RACING, from page 9

Star Speedway and Seekonk Speedway. Williams has previous wins at Monadnock and Seekonk, but has yet to hold the checkered flag at Star.

"I don't have a ton of laps at Star but I love it," Williams said. "It's a weird little track. We almost had a win there in the SBM when Ron Silk beat us, which was a great race. It's one track that both Gary & I really want to win at this year. Hopefully we can get it done."

Williams knows the competition is going to be stout, and the path to wins, or the championship, will not be easy with Tri Track.

"You have a guy like Matt Hirschman racing and a lot of people from a lot of different parts of New England coming to run with Tri Track," Williams said. "It provides some of the best racing and brings the best drivers."

The Tri Track Open Modified Series presented by All Phases Renovations season begins on Saturday, May 1 at Monadnock Speedway. For more information on the Tri Track Open Modified Series, visit TriTrackModifieds.com and follow the series on social media.

BASKETBALL, from page 9

“They’re definitely the biggest team that we’ve faced so far this season,” Enright said. “We didn’t handle them as well as I wanted too defensively. We had some lapses at times.”

Chrarzan scored a game-high 21 points, while DeVries added 12 points, and Walker checked in with 8 points, which was her career-high.

“Mya scored some points and had a few rebounds in tonight’s game,” Pascale said. “It was probably the best game so far in her varsity career. She played with a lot of confidence out there.”

The Lady Mustangs played without eighth grade guard Tennessee Murphy, who’s normally a starter. She didn’t attend the game for personal reasons. Junior guard Rylee Bonneau, who’s also a starter, was accidentally hit in the nose with 5:29 remaining in the first half. She was taken to the hospital to be checked out.

“We played most of the game without two of our starters,” Pascale said. “Rylee, who’s one of our better defenders, got hit in the nose pretty hard. We’re hoping to get some news about her later tonight.”

The Purple Knights, who have seven guards listed on their roster, made more than 80 three-pointers in the first eleven games of the season. They made a total of six trey’s against Monson.

Junior guard Yamaya Perez scored

12 of her team-high 18 points during the second half. Sophomore guard Bianca Ortiz-Cordero scored 14 points, and sophomore guard Ashley Vazquez also reached double digits with 12 points.

Besides being the girls’ varsity basketball coach at Holyoke High School, Enright also coaches a Mass Frenzy AAU team. Devries, who recently scored her 1,000th career point, has been a member of Enright’s AAU team during the past three years.

“I’ve been coaching Syd for a long time and she’s an outstanding basketball player. She’s also a great kid,” Enright said. “We both knew that tonight’s game was going to be a hard-fought battle.”

With 1:33 left in regulation, DeVries was fouled while making a lay-up giving the Lady Mustangs a 47-46 lead. DeVries missed the foul shot, but Monson was able to maintain possession of the ball.

After the Lady Mustangs missed a shot, the Purple Knights managed to retake the lead at 48-47 with 1:10 remaining on the clock following a jumper from the left side by Perez.

Following a turnover by Monson, a 3-pointer from the left wing by junior guard Kieriz Matos, which were her only points of the contest increased Holyoke’s lead to 51-57 with 30 seconds left.

“Kieriz couldn’t make any of her shots during the entire game,” Enright said. “I’m glad that she didn’t pass up that shot at the end of the game.”

Two made free throws by Perez with eight seconds left in the contest sealed the deal for the visiting team.

After Holyoke took an early 7-5 lead on an inside hoop by senior forward Taryn Ryan (4 points), the Lady Mustangs reeled off six unanswered points.

Ryan and Nathaliemalee Vazquez, who’s hasn’t played in any games this season because of an injury, are the Purple Knights only seniors.

A DeVries lay-up gave the home team an 11-7 advantage with 3:22 left in the opening quarter.

Monson’s largest lead of the first half was 20-14 with 5:15 left in the second quarter following a pair of inside hoops and a put-back by Chrarzan.

The Lady Mustangs, who held a 24-21 halftime advantage, were outscored 15-7 during the third quarter.

A field goal by Ortiz-Cordero gave the Purple Knights a 26-25 in the middle of the quarter. It was their first lead since the beginning of the game.

After falling behind by six points late in the third quarter, a Chrarzan inside hoop and an old fashion three-point play by Walker tied the score at 39-39 with 5:43 left in regulation.

Then a 3-pointer from the top of the key by Perez gave the lead back to the visiting team.

Monson would take the lead one final time before Holyoke pulled away with the late 7-0 run.

Valley Wheel Baseball seeks new players

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is looking for new players for the 2021 season, which is set to begin at the end of April. Players who are 28-years-old prior to June 1 are eligible to play in the league this season, however, only those 30 by June 1 are eligible to pitch. The league includes six teams and there is a 15-game season that begins on Sunday, April 25. Games are 12 Sundays, a special Mother’s Day weekend Saturday game, and two weekday night games under the lights. The season ends the final week of July with the playoffs for the top four teams during the first two weeks of August. While tryouts have completed, there are still open roster spots among the six teams in the league. The league will continue to accept applications for new players throughout the season. All players bat and every player spends at least four innings in the field in a nine-inning game. The league will be playing with some minor modifications due to the COVID-19 pandemic to start. For more information, please contact League Commissioner Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net.

Public Notices

Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:30 pm** to hear a Special Permit Application for North Country Production, LLC for a marijuana manufacturing enterprise at 12 Crescent St (030-01-001) & (030-04-003).

Meeting will take place remotely and can be accessed via www.zoom.us
Meeting ID: 891 2469 2209
Meeting Passcode: 465406
or by call in at: 1 (646)558-8656 with the same Meeting ID and Passcode.

Written public comment can be submitted to publiccomment@holyoke.org.

For information on these applications please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at anderson-burgosj@holyoke.org or by phone at (413) 322-5525

Ordinance chair
Rebecca Lisi

04/23, 04/30/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD21P0670GD
In the matter of:
Richard Wikstrom
Of: Holyoke, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION**

FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **CareOne Holyoke** of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Richard Wikstrom** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Nancy Godbout** of Granby, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is Incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/19/2021.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days

after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 14, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/23/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD21P0671GD
In the matter of:
Oscar Weathers
Of: Holyoke, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **CareOne Holyoke**

of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Oscar Weathers** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Nancy Godbout** of Granby, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is Incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/19/2021.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-

named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 14, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/23/2021

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
HAMPDEN, Div.
Probate & Family Court Dept.
HD21E0009PP1**
To Jennifer Garbiel, Trustee of the Jennifer J Garbiel Investment Trust, as tenant in common, of Holyoke, Massachusetts, in the County of Hampden, and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Jodine Powers, of Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, representing that they hold as tenants in common an undivided part or share of land lying in Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that she desires that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than Three Hundred Twenty-five Thousand (\$325,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed

to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto to you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o’clock in the forenoon on the **7th day of June, 2021**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this fifth day of April, 2021.

Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register of Probate & Family Court
04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2021

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING

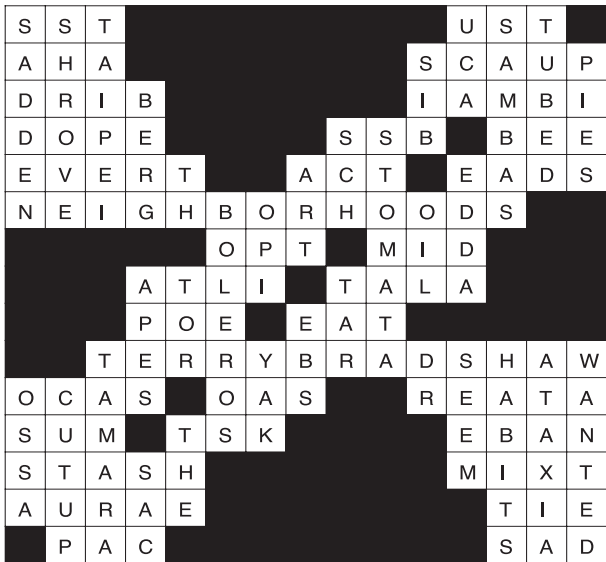
Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for Riverside Cannabis, LLC a proposed marijuana cultivator and Blossom Flower, LLC delivery operator is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.** at 1 Cabot St, Holyoke, MA 01040, the proposed location. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions. Social distancing and face masks required. If you are unable to attend, please email: damaris.aponte42@gmail.com with questions
04/23/2021

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Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

It's SUMMER CAMP Sign-Up Time!

How to help kids make friends at school

The average student likely spends more time at school and participating in extracurricular activities with classmates than he or she does at home. In close proximity to so many peers, it may seem like making friends would be a snap. However, some students have trouble connecting and can use a little push to make friends.

The family and parenting resource Parenting Science notes that research indicates that the most popular children are those who exemplify certain traits. These traits include being caring; a willingness to share; a willingness to offer help; and strong verbal skills. Children who embrace these traits may prove better at making friends. Parents may find that youngsters need some encouragement to build their social circles, and the following are some ways parents can offer that encouragement.

- Encourage kids to seek out someone on their own. It may be challenging to walk up to a group and introduce yourself. Encourage students to seek out someone who is alone and then strike up a conversation, which can be less intimidating than approaching a group. Emphasize to kids that other students may also be a little shy and looking to make friends.

- Practice conversation starters at home. Children can work with their parents to come up with topics that can help foster communication. These can include ice breakers and common interests, such as favorite television shows or video games.

- Teach kids approachable body lan-

guage. Wearing earbuds or exhibiting negative body language, such as crossed arms or avoiding eye contact, can make a person seem less approachable. Smiling, engaging in conversation and being friendly can make it easier to make friends.

- Ask teachers to help. The education resource Understood says teachers can give children responsibilities, such as the opportunity to hand out snacks or papers, which can build confidence and provide opportunities for kids to converse with their peers.

- Help children be active listeners.

An active listener is someone who makes it clear that he or she is paying attention. Making eye contact, orienting

the body toward the speaker and making relevant verbal responses are some active listening strategies that can help kids more fully engage with their peers. Feeling valued and listened to may encourage other children to be more friendly and engaging.

- Ask open questions. The social networking advisement site Young Scot suggests having students ask open questions, such as: "How was your summer?" or "What sports do you like to play?" These types of questions can

kick-start in-depth conversations.

- Join a team or club. Students often make friends in social or extracurricular settings, such as on a sports team. With a shared interest, it's easy to find topics to discuss.

Making friends in school can make time spent in the classroom more enjoyable for youngsters.

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5 reasons why summer camp is a good choice for kids

Summer vacation offers students a respite from lessons and the routine of school. Children might once have eagerly awaited those final days of classes so they could lounge poolside, skip rocks across ponds and spend the long days of the season playing with friends. But many of today's youngsters spend much of their summer vacations indoors playing with their digital devices.

Perhaps that's why one of the last vestiges of the classic summer vacation escape — summer camp — remains such a viable option for parents who want their children to get outdoors once the school year ends.

Although kids needn't be in camp all summer long, a week or two can benefit campers of all ages. The following are five reasons why summer camp might be the right fit this year.

1. Explore talents. Summer camps help young people explore their unique interests and talents. Under an organized, yet often easygoing, camp schedule, kids can dabble in sports, arts and crafts, leadership, community support,

and so many other activities that may not be fully available to them elsewhere.

2. Physical activity: Lots of camps build their itineraries around physical activities that takes place outdoors. Campers may spend their time swimming, running, hiking, playing sports, climbing, and so much more. This can be a welcome change for kids accustomed to living sedentary lifestyles. Regular physical activity has many health benefits and can set a foundation for healthy habits as an adult.

3. Gain confidence. Day and sleep-away camps offer campers the opportunity to get comfortable in their own skin. Camps can foster activities in self-esteem by removing the academic measures of success and fill in with noncompetitive opportunities to succeed. Campers learn independence, decision-making skills and the ability to thrive outside of the shadow of their parents, siblings or other students.

4. Try new things. Camp gives children the chance to try new things, whether that's learning to cook, exploring new environments or embracing a new sport or leisure activity. Opening oneself up to new opportunities can build character and prove enlightening for children.

5. Make new friends. Camp is a great place to meet new people and

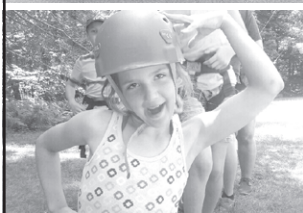
make lifelong friends. Campers flood in from areas near and far. This provides kids with a chance to expand their social circles beyond their immediate neighborhoods and schools.

Camps benefit children in a variety

of ways. Lessons learned in camp can strengthen values, build confidence, develop coping mechanisms when adversity strikes, and enable campers to make lifelong friends.



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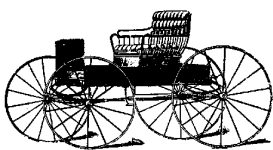
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13	14	15	16
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25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
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